**Faculty of Letters and Languages**

**Department of Arabic Literature**

**Module: English Language**

**Level: First Year Students (G5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 &12)**

**Prepositions**

**A preposition** is a word that shows the relationship between a noun or pronoun and other words in a sentence.

The preposition is placed before a noun or pronoun. It shows the relationship between nouns and pronouns in the same sentence. It may be used to indicate *position*, *place*, *direction*, or *time*.

1. **Prepositions of Position**

Regarding place**, *in*** tends to be used with larger areas such as cities, countries, and tunnels, whereas ***at*** tends to be used for smaller places.

E.g.

* The couple will spend their money **in** London. (Large area or a “city”)
* Liza is at the library. (Small place)

When talking about heights or levels, you use ***below***, ***over***, and ***under***.

E.g.

* The dog is sleeping **under** the bed.
* Please do not write **below** this line.
* The plane flew **over** the hills.

1. **Prepositions of Direction**

These prepositions indicate a movement towards a goal.

E.g.

* Let’s go **to** the market.
* The swimmers walked **into** the sea.
* The students eagerly ran **towards** the campsite.

1. **Prepositions of Time**

***On*** is used for days and dates.

E.g.

* The wedding will be **on** Saturday.

***At*** is used to indicate a specific time.

E.g.

* I will see you ***at*** six o’clock.

**From… to** and **during** are used to indicate a period of time.

E.g.

* The tulip festival is **from** March **to** May.
* **During** the school holidays, students engage in community projects.

Other prepositions indicating time are **before**, **until**, **after**, **since**, and **by**.

E.g.

* My wife exercises **before** breakfast.
* You can visit her **after** office hours.
* You must submit the forms **by** 1st July.
* **Until now**, I’ve always thought that she was a meticulous officer.
* She has been making a lot of progress **since** she started her exercise programme.